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## Honga : the leader, v. 05, no. 03

American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc.

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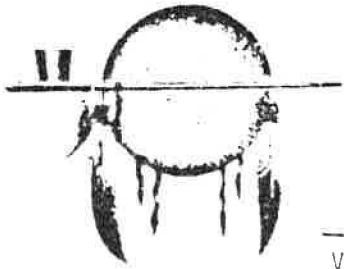
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# HONGA

Vol. 5, No. 3

"THE LEADER"

March 1982

## HOUSING AVAILABLE...

Affirmative Marketing Plan. The Seldin Development & Management Co. in accordance with the Affirmative Marketing Plan for Livingston Plaza Apartments has asked the Indian Center to seek persons who might be interested in the new housing complex located at 303 S. 132nd St. in Omaha.

Livingston Plaza is a new 52 unit complex consisting of 46 - one bedroom and 6-two bedroom apartments, designed for Elderly and Handicapped.

Construction is now complete and apartments are available to all qualified families regardless of race, color, creed, or national origin.

Persons interested can contact 333-7373, ext. 40 or call Joan Garey at the Indian Center for assistance.

Urban Homesteading Program. The City of Omaha has announced its new Urban Homesteading Program. The program is designed to reclaim vacant houses and sell them at low cost to new owners. These new owners will then gradually rehabilitate the houses, using their own efforts as equity.

The City will provide a house and a limited, low interest loan to selected homesteaders. In exchange, the homesteaders must agree to live in the house for at least three years and rehabilitate it over that period of time. The concept of the program is to allow families to become homeowners by working on houses themselves.

When two or more properties are available for homesteading, they will be advertised in the real estate section of the World-Herald, Sun, and Omaha Star. Ads will include a photograph and brief description of each house.

Financial assistance is also available. The Urban Homesteading Program is a self-help program. However, homestead houses may need immediate repairs to make them liveable.

To meet these needs, the City will of-

fer homesteaders a loan of \$7,000 for improvements at a 3% interest rate for a ten year term. The monthly payment for a principle and interest for this loan is \$67.59. The loan will be secured by a first mortgage on the property.

If you desire more information on this program, contact Clyde Tyndall at the Indian Center or the Department of Housing and Community Development, 1819 Farnam St., Suite 401, Omaha, NE 68183, or phone 444-5150.

Applications for this program are available at the Center.

The City also has plans for low interest loans. We will keep you informed on future developments.

Live in a High Rise of Your Choice. The Omaha Housing Authority was recently authorized to change its policy regarding the method in which dwelling units are offered to eligible applicants.

This means--you may apply today for the High Rise apartment building of your choice! Your name will be placed on the waiting list for the Senior Tower you select and you will be contacted when you reach the top of the list and a vacancy occurs in that building.

Consider Senior Tower living today! No more utilities to pay, range and refrigerator furnished, and monthly rent based on your income! All this plus nice neighbors in a secure sparkling clean apartment building designed especially for YOU. New and higher income limits have just gone into effect that will likely make YOU eligible.

Housing applications accepted Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Omaha Housing Authority, 540 South 27th St. For assistance, call Joan Garey at 344-0111, ext. 9.

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The Alcoholism Program at 3483 Larimore Avenue is now open on an inpatient basis. Interested persons should contact the staff of the program at 453-6377.

The AICO Youth Basketball Team has survived the first elimination round of their league play-offs, winning over United Methodist 29-28 on Tuesday, February 23rd at the Omaha Home For Boys. The next round of play-offs continue each Tuesday night until our team is defeated or they win the league championship.

The AICO Accountant is still preparing tax returns for the community, free of charge if you need such service. Remember, if you desire to avail of this service, please bring all your supporting documents so that you won't have to make more than one trip.

The Indian Child Resource Center Director, Mr. Al Milk is again asking people of Indian descent from the Omaha community to apply as foster care parents. The Center is now a Licensed Child Placement Agency and has the authority to certify foster care parents. If you are interested in the program, contact Mr. Milk at the Center.

The Trading Post has gotten quite a few new items in the store since the last newsletter was put out. They now have a good assortment of earrings, necklaces, key chains, cigarette lighters and other items. Myrna Red Owl and Elva Cantu have just completed a fourteen hour program in business management and they both have received certificates from the Nebraska Business Development Center. They are eagerly looking forward to doing business with you.

The Buffalo Printing Co. is currently operating on a part-time basis. Two small contracts have thus far been completed. This is the first edition of the HONGA that will be printed by the Print Shop. John Alexander, Printer for the Shop would like to inform the community, that a reasonable price will be set for such jobs.

Free cheese will be given away at the American Indian Center for the community on April 1st.

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Susan La Flesche Picotte's grandfather was a doctor on her mother's side and her father was the last head chief of the Omaha Indians.

Her Nebraska and Indian roots might have been severed in 1879 when--at age 13--she left the Omaha Indian Reservation to attend a private girls' school in New Jersey.

But an eastern education didn't erase her ties with her background and family. Instead she was to return to that same reservation later to serve her father's people, in the footsteps of her grandfather, as a medical doctor--the third American Indian to become a medical doctor.

She had become a voice for preventive medical examination, particularly for school age children, long before the idea became popular. She fought the spread of tuberculosis among the Omahas.

"I feel that what is done for the children is more important than anything else," she once said, "for what you want to see in the public life you must teach in the public school. The future fathers and mothers of our homes have a right to be educated in health knowledge."

The youngest child of Mary and Joseph La Flesche (they had four daughters and one son), Susan left with her sister Marguerite for the Elizabeth Institute in Elizabeth, N.J. They followed their oldest sister, Susette "Bright Eyes" who had left for the Elizabeth Institute in 1869, 10 years earlier.

Both Marguerite and Susan graduated and returned to the reservation in the summer of 1882. From their return until 1884, the two sisters worked at the Presbyterian Mission School on the reservation.

In 1884 the two began their next joint educational adventure--this time at the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in Virginia.

Hampton had opened after the Civil War as a school for freed slaves but soon after began admitting Indians.

Susan graduated in 1886 and although she wasn't the valedictorian, she was awarded a gold medal for her school work. Her next stop on the educational express was Women's Medical College in Philadelphia.

This time she came out on top--No. 1 in a class of 33 women in 1889 and the first American Indian woman doctor.

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She was one of six from the class chosen for additional training at Philadelphia hospitals before she returned to the reservation later that year as the government appointed physician for the tribe. The Omaha Reservation then was an area slightly larger than Thurston County is today.

She held that position until 1894, often taking long trips by horseback in blizzards and storms to make her rounds. But her mother, Mary, was ill and Susan resigned to care for her.

Late that year, Susan married Henry Picotte, a French-Yankton Sioux, and the couple split their home life between a small house on the reservation and a house in Bancroft. Mrs. Picotte continued to practice medicine, serving both white people and Indians. At both homes, she kept a lighted lantern on the doorsteps to guide any sick person to her door.

After her marriage, Mrs. Picotte increased her activities in Indian affairs. She became a leader for the Omahas in tribal and social service affairs. She conducted religious services in the mission church and traveled to Washington, as the Omaha tribal delegate, to fight for a law that would prohibit the sale of alcohol on the Omaha and Winnebago reservations.

In 1905, a few months after her husband Henry died, Dr. Picotte was appointed by the Presbyterian Church to be a missionary to the Omaha tribe, the first American Indian appointed by the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions.

The following year, Susan moved to the new community of Walthill, built a home there and began her crusade for a local hospital. With the help of the Presbyterian church, she accomplished her goal (The hospital was named after her, after she died).

In addition to her work for Indians, Dr. Picotte also was a member of the Nebraska State Medical Society and state chairperson for Women's Clubs. She lobbied for state laws requiring health inspections for schools, the abolition of public drinking cups, installation of drinking fountains and provisions of sanitary ice cream dishes and spoons.

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She also was active in tuberculosis prevention work, wrote articles on health for the Walthill newspaper, helped establish a play-ground for Walthill children and when there was no fund for a medical inspector, did the school inspection herself.

She worked at the hospital barely two years when an ear infection she had for many years had grown steadily worse. By 1914, doctors referred to her ailment as "decay of the bones," later "possibly cancer." Two operations at Clarkson hospital in Omaha didn't help. On September 18, 1915, Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte died in her Walthill home, "and grief shook the community."

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#### AMERICAN INDIAN NATIONAL REPUBLIC FEDERATION FORMED

Washington (Feb. 8, 1982) President Reagan has applauded the formation of the American Indian National Republic Federation. Calling it "an occasion for great joy among us," Ted Bryant, saying "Your organization will serve as an important line of communication between American Indians throughout our nation and this administration." Bryant explains the group's main purpose is to bring American Indians into the political process and make them aware of the stakes involved in modern partisan politics.

Louis Bruce, first vice-president of the Federation and former Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, says "Our members will be a consistent Indian voice in Republican party councils. The original Americans have been silent too long. This is the opportunity to take part in the decision making process that can affect all of our futures, as Indians and as Americans."

Also, Reagan went on to state in a letter "You have my best wishes for great success as you begin your work, and I look forward to the future that we can build through this cooperation".

EDITOR'S FOOTNOTE: It remains to see how this new organization will function for the Native American in the future.. The HONGA will follow closely any new information and relate it to the readers.. ACTION SPEAKS LOUDER THAN WORDS....

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# AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF OMAHA INC.

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(402) 344-0111

Nonprofit Organization  
**U. S. POSTAGE**  
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OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- March 5 Handgame sponsored by Walthill Indian Club (Student & Parents) 6:00 p.m. at Cultural Building, Macy, Nebraska.
- March 8 Deadline for registration of Softball Team, girls & boys, ages 8-12, 13-15, and 16-18. Contact Tom Harlan for registration and more information. Volunteer coaches are also needed.
- March 17 St. Patrick's Day Supper at 6:00 p.m. in the Macy, Nebraska Cultural Building. Fundraising activity for the 1982 Omaha Pow-Wow.
- March 18 AICO Board of Directors' Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the American Indian Center Conference Room. Public invited.
- March 26-28 Denver Pow-Wow. Call the American Indian Center at 344-0111 for more information.
- March 27 American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame Enshrinement, Haskell Indian Junior College, Warner A. Coffin Sports Complex at 7:30 p.m.
- March 27 Pow-Wow sponsored by UNO and American Indian Center of Omaha at the Sacred Heart Auditorium, 2218 Binney St. From 1 p.m. to 10 p.m.